

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD



*The Church Of Epiphany
Brick Township, New Jersey*

The Church of Epiphany

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

615 Thiele Road ~ Brick, New Jersey 08724

Phone: 732-458-0220 / Fax: 732-458-0855 / Website: www.churchofepiphany.org

*Celebrating
50 Years*

*Reflect on the Past
Celebrate the Present
Prepare for the Future*

Served By

REV. MICHAEL SANTANGELO -----Pastor

REV. ROBERT LAFERRERA-----Weekend Assistant

LOUIS V. COMMISSO (Retired) -----Deacon

MICHAEL MULLARKEY-----Deacon

RONALD NOWAK (Retired)-----Deacon

KIM LORENTZEN-----Director Religious Education

DANIEL DANTONI-----Director of Music

DONNA WOODLEY-----Parish Secretary

CAROL LORE-----Finance Secretary

KELLY CURCIONE-----Administrative Asst. Rel. Ed

MICHAEL & AMY NOWAK-----Middle School Youth Group

BARBARA FAVRETTO-----High School Youth Group

Rectory Office Hours

Monday – Thursday 8:30am – 4:30pm,

Office is closed for lunch 12:00pm – 1:15pm

Friday 9:00am – 3:00pm (no lunch break on Friday)

Religious Education Office

Hours the same as Rectory Office Hours

Kim Lorentzen – Director of Education

kim@churchofepiphany.org

Kelly Curcione – Administrative Assistant

kelly@churchofepiphany.org

Welcome to our Parish

Please fill out a registration form to be affiliated with Epiphany Parish. Registration forms can be found on the parish office door or online on our website.

Masses

Saturday Vigil-----4:00 pm

Sunday----- 8:00 am & 10:30 am

Holy Day Masses -----Mass as Announced

Confessions- -----Saturday from 3:00pm – 3:30pm

Sacrament of Marriage

Saturday 11:00 am, 12:30 pm, 2:00 pm. Couples should contact the Parish Office to make preparations at least 1 year before the planned wedding date.

Sacrament of Baptism

The Sacrament of Baptism is ordinarily celebrated the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month at 12:00 pm. To schedule Baptism, please call the Parish Office, at least one month in advance.

Sponsor Letters/Requirements

The following is required by Canon Law to be a Catholic Godparent/Sponsor for Baptism or Confirmation. Be at least 16 years of age. Have completed the Sacraments of Initiation. (Baptism, Eucharist & Confirmation). If married, have a marriage that is canonically valid and recognized by the Catholic Church. Be a registered and active parishioner living a life of faith. You must be registered with our parish for at least 3 months before we will provide a sponsor letter. Although you may have registered with our parish, if you are not attending Mass regularly and using the envelope system there is no way for the parish office to confirm regular Mass attendance. Please contact the Parish Office to confirm your status with our parish.

January 7, 2024 • The Epiphany of the Lord

Daily Mass Intentions

Saturday, January 6, 2024

9:00AM Christmas Flower Intentions

4:00PM People of the Parish

Sunday, January 7, 2024

8:00AM Maureen Ann Lago by Your friends at Epiphany

1030AM William McCormack by Rosemary Casper

Monday, January 8, 2024

9:00AM Peter Reynolds by Nancy & Jerry O'Donnell

Tuesday, January 9, 2024

9:00AM Daniel Squillante by the McCormack family

Wednesday, January 10, 2024

9:00AM Deceased members of the Ward family
by Jim & Pat Gaffney

Thursday, January 11, 2024

9:00AM Deacon Peter Reynolds by Colette Commisso

Friday, January 12, 2024

9:00AM Augustus & Annie Pons by their Daughter
Intentions in the Grey Book

Saturday, January 13, 2024

9:00AM Michael Rogel by Joan Mullee

4:00PM Teddy Correia by Debbie Pagels

Sunday, January 14, 2024

8:00AM People of the Parish

10:30AM Scott Farrell by the Pistolakis family

This Week at our Parish

Monday, January 8, 2024

10:00AM Food Pantry – PH #1

7:00PM Let's get together and pray – WA

7:15PM Evening Bible Study – APR

Tuesday, January 9, 2024

10:00AM Come and See Bible Study – APR

7:00PM Parish Pastoral Council Meeting - APR

Wednesday, January 10, 2024

3:00PM Adoration – WA

Thursday, January 11, 2024

7:00PM Adult Choir – WA

Friday, January 12, 2024

8:00PM AA - APR

Saturday, January 13, 2024

10:00AM Food Pantry – PH

4:00PM 3rd & 4th Grade Mandatory Mass

Sunday, January 14, 2024

8:00PM 3rd & 4th Grade Mandatory Mass

10:30AM Children's Liturgy of The Word

Legend: APR – All Purpose Room PH – Parish Hall
CA – Commons Area WA – Worship Area
RE – Religious Education Room OS – Outside

Sunday Scriptures

Here are next Sunday's Scripture Readings

First Reading: 1 Samuel 3:3b-10, 19

This powerful story describes Samuel, who at the time was the servant of the high priest. The Lord called out to Samuel, who twice thought Eli had called him. They gradually realized that it was the Lord who called for him. So the third time Samuel answered and the Lord remained with Samuel as he grew.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 6:13c-15a, 17-20

Gospel: John 1:35-42

Please remember those who have died

Please pray for the repose of the souls of the deceased spouses, relatives, friends, and benefactors of the parish and for the comfort and consolation of their families including **John Crosio**.

Please pray for the sick

Joan Mullee, Carol Puzio, Frank Osborne, Elena Lantigua, Josephine Hallett, Sebastian Neaves, Tim Feeney, Greg Macerino, John Crosio, Mary Buono, Jerry O'Donnell, Jim Dichert, Kelsey Deichert, Jaxon Deichert, Frances Howell, Christopher Matarese, Edward W. Baumgart, Sandy Crosio, Maurice Pickell, Frank Panetta, Pat DeJesus, Jean Doyen, Lisa Walker, Marie Dibblee, Simone McDill, Chris Papike, Gregory Macerino, Dottie Averno, Laura Becker, Elena Lantigua, Kevin Coyle, Margaret Wallace, Maureen McMahon, Elizabeth Kelly, Austin Kellenberger, Jill Rudville, Mary Sparta, Alberta Parsons, and those in the sick call book.

"Please Pray for the Sick" list is for those parishioners who are in need of further prayers from our "Prayers of the Faithful". They will remain on the list for 2 months, after which time their names will be moved to the Gray Book. To add someone to the prayer list, call Donna at 732-458-0220 or email Donna@churchofepiphany.org

At the request of Pope Francis, Bishop David O'Connell, and our Pastor, Father Mike, we are praying for our church in these very challenging times in response to the abuse crisis. We turn to Saint Michael the Archangel to defend us from all evils.

Powerful Prayer to Saint Michael

Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray; and do Thou, O Prince of the Heavenly Host - by the Divine Power of God cast into hell, satan and all the evil spirits, who roam throughout the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

VIGIL LIGHT PRAYER

Weekly Remembrance January 7th – 14th

The Tabernacle Lamp
will burn in the honor/memory of:
Those in the Parish who are sick



The Blessed Mother Devotional Lamp
will burn in honor/memory of:
Eileen Martone



The Sacred Heart Devotional Lamp
will burn in honor/memory of:
People of the Parish



The St. Joseph Devotional Lamp
will burn in honor/memory of:
All those battling cancer



Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Adoration will take place each Wednesday at 3PM. The gathering of the faith community gives honor and praise to the Lord and prayer is offered for one another. Private prayer and/or stillness is left to you as is the amount of time you spend in the worship area. Adoration closes at 6PM.



Let's Get Together and Pray

Meetings take place on Mondays at 7:00PM. Our prayer group is open to anyone who is searching for answers and looking to pray as a community. For more information, please contact Kim at kim@churchofepiphany.org.

Healing Mass

All are welcome to join us for a Healing Mass. We will begin at 6:30PM in the worship area with prayer and reflection. Mass will commence at 7PM followed by Prayers of Healing and Adoration.

Our next Healing Mass will be on January 19th at 6:30PM.

Bethany Bereavement

The Church of Epiphany Bethany Bereavement Support Group offers peer support for those grieving the death of a loved one. If you have lost a loved one, join others who have also experienced a loss for a series of 6 sessions of information, mutual sharing and peer support in a spiritual, caring, and confidential setting. If you are interested in joining, please call 732-458-0220.

Celiac Sprue Parishioners

The parish provides a low gluten (<0.01% gluten content) host for those who are gluten-intolerant. Parishioners should see the Deacon or Priest prior to the beginning of Mass in order to be included in the reception of the Eucharist.

Lenten Retreat

Join Fr. Mike, Deacon Mike, Kim Lorentzen, and Sandy Mullarkey for a Lenten Retreat on **February 24th** beginning with Mass at 9AM until 1PM in the All Purpose Room. A light breakfast will be served. The Sign up sheet can be found in the Commons area. Signup deadline is Tuesday, February 20th.

Altar Rosary Society

The Society's Mission is "to sustain the beauty and sanctity of our Church and to increase devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary by promoting true Christian Charity, love of God, Neighbor, and Catholic Family Life." **Our next meeting will be on February 3rd after the 9:00 am Mass** and recitation of the Rosary. Meetings last about one hour in the All Purpose Room. Our membership is open to all Catholic Women and Men of our Parish. Please come to any of our monthly meetings to meet us.

HOPE For the Homebound Ministry

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. (Romans 15:13)

We are reaching out to parishioners who may be alone, homebound, and unable to participate in our Church Community. If you are homebound, or know of someone who is homebound, and would like to receive the Eucharist or just a friendly visit or call from one of our parishioners, please call the parish office to make arrangements.



Wellness for Maturing Adults

The HOPE – Wellness Ministry invites you to join them every first Wednesday of the month where they will discuss wellness for maturing adults. This program goes far beyond simple "health practices" (diet, exercise, etc.) for better health; it teaches how to harness psychological power, and spiritual strength to achieve optimal health in body, mind and spirit. Our next meeting will be on **Wednesday, February 7, 2024**, following the 9:00AM Mass in the All Purpose Room. Please note we will not be meeting in January. We hope you join us in February!

"Did you ever wonder...?"

On the 1st Tuesday of the month we will gather in the APR for a casual gathering to answer your questions about the Faith. Questions can be submitted ahead of time or will be collected as we gather.

Who: Anyone interested in learning more about the faith

What time: 7:00PM – 8:30PM

Where: The All Purpose Room

When: Tuesday, February 6th

Why: Why not?

STEWARDSHIP



Time ♣ Talent ♣ Treasure

*****Our Current Collection*****

Your continued generosity is most appreciated!

December 31st, 2023

Total weekly collection: \$6429 / online not available
Needed to meet the budget: \$8363

Our 2024 Annual Appeal –Goal \$34,000
Pledges - \$29,519.00
Payments – \$28,844.00
87% of Goal

This same time last year we were 74% of the goal.
Thank you so much to all of you who have donated and
for those who would like to contribute, there is still time!



Annual Appeal Explanation

The Annual Catholic Appeal mission remains the same as it was when it began; to financially empower the Church to serve all the people of God, regardless of belief. What's different today: the needs are greater than ever before. For more information visit the Diocese website: <http://www.dioceseoftrenton.org/catholicappeal/>

Online Giving

If you prefer to pay bills and manage your finances online, you can set up an account and make your parish offering online via our website. You will be able to specify exactly how much you are giving, how you are giving it (credit card or bank withdrawal), to what fund you are giving, and when/how often you would like to contribute. It's safe and secure, and you can even track your giving history and pledge progress at any time. Just click the Online Giving button (on the home page or the Online Giving page) to get started or access your existing account. *Please note: Special Holidays/days of Holy Obligation Donations may be set up separately.*

If you have questions about the security of online giving or the processes involved, check out the Online Giving FAQ page on our website: churchofepiphany.org

Why Should I use weekly envelopes?

The use of envelopes is important, they document your active participation in the faith life of our parish. This information is needed in order to obtain a Letter of Eligibility to be issued when you are asked to be a baptism or confirmation sponsor. This also facilitates the preparation of a statement of contributions for income tax purpose.

If you do not currently participate in our envelope system and would like to start using them, please contact the Parish Office at 732-458-0220.



Ways to Perpetuate a Memory or Commemorate an Event

The Tree of Life: This is a way to perpetuate the memory of a loved one or to memorialize someone. To make a donation of \$500 for an engraved leaf or \$2500 for a stone, please contact the parish office staff at 732-458-0220 or email carol@churchofepiphany.org

Commemorative Bricks: This is an ideal way to commemorate a graduation, wedding, special family celebration, or acknowledge a love one. To order one of the two bricks (4X8" or 8X8) and make a donation of \$150 or \$200, please contact the parish office staff at 732-458-0220 or email carol@churchofepiphany.org

Bequests

We are a tax-exempt non-profit Organization and gratefully accept donations from last will and testament and/or stock to assist in carrying out our mission. For more information on how to have your wishes known, please talk to your personal banking representative. May God Bless you for your generosity!

Vigil Candles

Candles will be in honor or memory of the named individual for one week (Sunday to Saturday) and announced in our bulletin and displayed at candle. Donation is \$10. Please come to the parish office to see dates available dates.

Spiritual Bouquet

A Spiritual Bouquet is a spiritual blessing that is made for a loved one during the First Friday Mass of the month. In addition, their name will be printed in the bulletin. You can also request a card. Donation is \$10

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RCIA

A journey in faith

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is the process by which adults who would like to become Catholic, or Catholic adults who would like to receive all of their Sacraments are able to do so. If you would like more information about the process, feel free to reach out to Kim at Kim@churchofepiphany.org or contact the parish office.

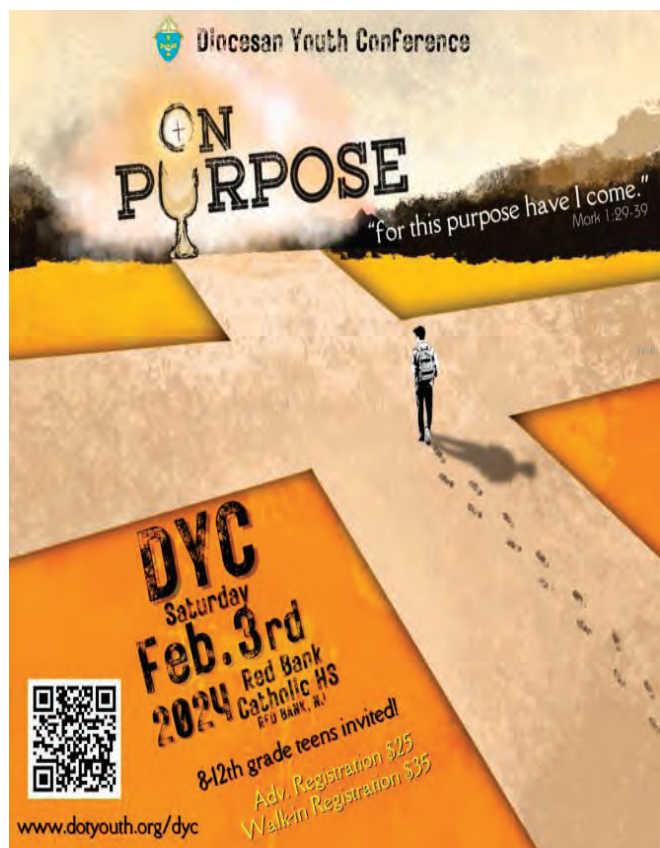
Homily Reflection Books

Homily Reflections: Each student must write 14 Homily Reflections as follows: A minimum of 9 Masses throughout the year as well as 3 Mandatory Masses together with Christmas and Easter Masses.

(Minimum Total of 14 Homily Reflections.) This is not saying you only have to attend Mass 14 times a year. Sundays are a Holy Day of Obligation and Practicing Catholics are required to attend weekly Mass and all Holy Days.

Children's Liturgy of the Word

Our youngest parishioners are invited to join us every Sunday, at the 10:30 Mass in the APR for the Children's Liturgy of the Word. It's open to ages 4 through Second Grade. No need to pre-register or sign up. If you have any questions, please leave a message with the Church office.



Helping Hands

Our Food Pantry is located in the Parish Hall, the small white church, on the corner of Herbertsville Road and Thiele Road in Brick. Food Pantry hours are Saturday from 10AM – 1PM and Monday from 10AM – Noon.

Below is the list of items needed for the Helping Hands food pantry:

Most Needed

- *Juice/Drinks
- *Fresh Fruit/Vegetables
- *Frozen Vegetables
- *Coffee
- *Cooking Oil
- *Pancake Syrup
- *Pasta Sauce
- *Meat/Chicken/Pork/Hamburgers
- *Butter
- *Assorted Dried Beans
- *Eggs
- *Fish
- *Oatmeal/Sweet Oatmeal
- *White Rice

In November, Helping Hands helped 255 families / 1245 people with Food.

Religious Articles & Gifts

The Altar Rosary Society will be selling Religious Articles and Gifts after all Masses the weekend of **January 20th & 21st**. If you are looking for something in particular, please contact the parish office and someone from the Rosary Society will get back to you.

Catholic Charities

Mental Health Crisis Services

Feeling Down or Anxious? Catholic Charities can help you. They Offer:

- Mental Health Crisis Services
- Psychiatric Urgent Care
- Substance Recovery Treatment
- Social Services and Support

Call 609-729-5468, you connection to Catholic Charities Mental health Crisis Services. Daily hours of operation are 8AM – 6PM.

Calendar Raffle

Last chance for Raffle tickets! Calendar Raffle Drawings will begin on Tuesday, January 9th at 10AM, and will continue to be drawn every Tuesday for 12 weeks (until March 26th). There are 12 chances to win! Every drawing will have a \$250 prize and your ticket will be entered in all drawings! Ticket's cost \$20 each. Please stop by the office to purchase!

Did You Know the Magi stand in for all peoples of the earth?

The Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord commemorates the visit of the magi to worship the baby Jesus as told in the Gospel of Matthew:

“Behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, ‘Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage.’ The word “epiphany” comes from the Greek *epiphainen*, which means “to manifest,” “appear,” or “make known.” The Feast of the Epiphany celebrates the revelation of Jesus, the Son of God, to the world.

“The great feast of Epiphany celebrates the adoration of Jesus by the wise men (*magi*) from the East. In the magi, representatives of the neighboring pagan religions, the Gospel sees the first-fruits of the nations, who welcome the good news of salvation through the Incarnation.” (CCC 528) Jesus is the Savior of the world. He comes not just for one group of people but for all. The magi, or kings, or astrologers, or seekers from the East, stand in for all the peoples of the earth. In many European cultures, the Feast of the Epiphany is celebrated as richly as Christmas, with gifts exchanged, since it is the day when the magi presented their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh to Jesus. Frankincense was often used in divine worship. It becomes a symbol of Christ as priest and it is also a symbol of Christ’s divinity. Myrrh was often used in burials, especially of prominent people who could afford it. Because of this, Christians often interpreted this gift as referring to the coming suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus. In this sense, myrrh can be seen as representing Christ as prophet. We think of the Suffering Servant prophecies of Isaiah that pointed to this. We also recall the words of Simeon to Mary at the circumcision of Jesus in the Temple. Gold has long been seen, in many cultures, as a gift for kings, or denoting kingship. It is easy to see how this gift points to the kingship of Christ.

Gift Auction ~ Donations

We are already working on our 2024 gift auction! Did you receive a gift that you really don’t need or want? We will be happy to take it! Out shopping and see a great deal? We would love it! Please consider picking up an item to donate, don’t know what to buy we can always use gift cards. Please make sure all items are new with the tags still attached. Donations can be dropped off to the parish office.

Divorced and Separated Ministry

St. Leo’s Parish in Lincroft is pleased to announce its continuing ministry entitled, “Surviving Divorce: Hope and Healing for the Catholic Family”, a healing program being offered for divorced and/or separated Catholics. We are having an Information Night on **Thursday, February 1, 2024** from 7:00 – 8:30 pm at St. Leo The Great in the Parish Center Meeting Room, located at 50 Hurleys Lane in Lincroft. If interested, please email: healingheartsfromdivorce@gmail.com with your name and contact information and one of the facilitators will get back in touch with you regarding all the details and will answer any questions you may have. Visit: <https://www.mylifechangecoach.com/divorceministry> for more information about the program or call/text Michele Coppola Wilson at 201-753-8485. Thank you for taking the first step towards healing!

Trip to Sight & Sound Theatre

The Church of Epiphany Altar Rosary Society is hosting a bus trip to Sight & Sound Theatre to see DANIEL. The trip will be on November 16th and cost \$190 per person. The bus will leave the Epiphany parking lot at 7:30-AM to see the 11AM show. Cost of the trip includes bus transportation, Hershey Farm Grand Smorgasbord, and ticket to see DANIEL. For more information email: Seasonal615@gmail.com. Please make check payable to “Church of Epiphany Altar Rosary Society.”



The Diocese of Trenton is committed to the initiatives outlined in the US Bishop’s Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People and to its own policies and guidelines in regard to the reporting and investigation of sexual abuse allegations involving minors. If you have been sexually abused as a minor by a member of the clergy or anyone representing the Catholic Church or if you know of someone who was, you can report the abuse through the diocesan ABUSE HOTLINE: 1-888-296-2965 or via e-mail at abuseline@diocesoftrenton.org. The Diocese of Trenton reports any allegations of sexual abuse to the appropriate law enforcement agencies. Anyone with an allegation is also encouraged to provide that information to the local enforcement authorities.

< KID'S > KORNER

Gospel Today

The Epiphany of the Lord | Matthew 2:1-12

The 3 are called **wise men, kings, or magi** - they saw and understood that the baby Jesus was truly God. They took a different route home and did not go back to Herod.

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The Feast of the Epiphany celebrates God's revealing Himself to us in the baby Jesus.

CELEBRATE WITH A KING CAKE!



King Cake season goes from the Feast of the Epiphany through Shrove Tuesday (*Mardi Gras*). This round "crown" cake, represents the journey of the 3 kings, and is decorated in purple (*justice*), green (*faith*) and gold (*power*) icing or sugar. Some cakes have a hidden bean or tiny plastic baby hidden inside and the one who finds it is "crowned", or responsible for the next cake.

Ingredients

1 cup milk (*scalded*)
1/3 cup butter
(*melted in milk*)

small bowl

1/4 cup warm water
1 package yeast
1 tsp. sugar

small bowl

2 eggs beaten
1/2 cup sugar
pinch salt

small bowl

Let all ingredients sit
about 15 minutes, add
to flour - mix well

4 cups flour

large bowl

Directions

Knead on floured surface, 10 minutes (*add more flour if needed*). Rub dough ball with vegetable oil and place in covered oiled bowl in warm place to rise, 1 hour or double in size. Roll flat into rectangle and brush on oil or melted butter, sprinkle with sugar cinnamon. Roll into log starting on long edge. Form into ring (crown), pinch edges together and let rise on baking tray. Bake 350° for 15 - 20 minutes or until golden brown.

SWEET as HONEY



Colored sugar: In a jar add 1/2 cup sugar, 1-2 drops food color... green or yellow or red/blue (*purple*) and shake well. Decorate with green, purple & yellow (*gold*) cake icing and colored sugar. *This cake does not include a bean or baby, as in some traditions, due to choking hazard.*



Life in the Spirit Seminar

What: The Life in the Spirit Seminar is designed as an introduction to a life lived in the power of the Holy Spirit. It provides an opportunity for people to find out more about that life, and to be helped in taking the first steps in a new or renewed relationship with the Lord.

When: six consecutive Sundays: February 4th, 11th, 18th, and 25th, March 3rd and 10th.

Time: 2:00 to 3:30 PM

Where: we will be using both the Church and the APR

For who: The Life in the Spirit Seminar is open to anyone wishing to explore or deepen a relationship with the Holy Spirit. Since this is the Evangelization Team's first presentation of the seminar we are going to limit participation to our parishioners who have already received the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Come Holy Spirit!

Cheers 50 Years!

*The Church of Epiphany is celebrating 50 years!
We hope you will come out and help us celebrate.*

Dinner Dance

Date: February 10, 2024

Time: 6:00PM

*Location: Spring Lake Manor
415 Highway 71, Spring Lake*

Tickets: \$75 per person

*Includes: Music and Dancing, Cocktail Hour
(cash bar), Sit down dinner with choice of
Flank Steak Marsala, Grilled Salmon, Chicken
Florentine, Penne Vodka, unlimited soft drinks
and Dessert.*

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good friends, good food,
and don't forget your dancing shoes.*

Tickets available in the parish office beginning January 5th.

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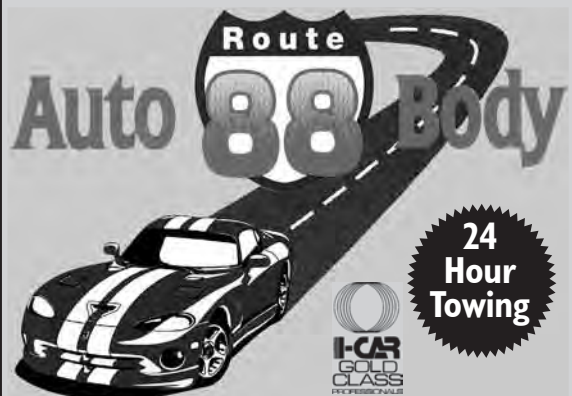
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